SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to the AOS Corner, your monthly newsletter for Representatives, Presidents, and Newsletter Editors. Back to School…Another year has flown by and we are now on the brink of the seasonal changes that Fall brings very soon! We wish you all good luck as you start thinking about the holidays and say goodbye to Summer. Happy Labor Day to All!

MESSAGE FROM THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Your support is critical and we appreciate and value your active participation in the American Orchid Society Family. During the next few months, an Affiliated Societies Committee Member will be working hard to reach out to the AOS reps across the country. We want to let you all know that we are here for you with suggestions and assistance and to help your society build AOS membership. Our committee members will be making phone calls to chat and gather information about your society and we look forward to "meeting" you or saying "Hello" again. Want to get Involved with the AOS? Please send me an email at arod@aos.org and you are also welcome to join us at our next virtual meeting on September 16th, 2026 @ 8 P.M. (Eastern Time) – Thank you for your time and support to the AOS!

MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY PRESIDENT

The Fall Board of Trustees meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, along with wonderful fellowship with members of the Kentucky Orchid Society. Many thanks to All the Kentucky Orchid Society members who have been helping to facilitate our meeting by finding a location for us to gather.

Those who arrive early enough are able to tour the Old Forester distillery as a side excursion. Then we get down to business on Friday: determining the direction for the AOS for the next six years and charging each committee with helping make our vision a reality. We are also holding our monthly board meeting.

And then comes the fun part… On Friday night, we will enjoy a lasagna dinner with members of the Kentucky Orchid Society who have worked hard preparing the show for the weekend. Of course, Saturday morning will include judging the show for the board and staff who serve as judges. Their hospitality, kindness, and welcome is truly outstanding, and we are deeply grateful.

Next, here are a couple of opportunities that I hope all affiliated societies take advantage of. Our talented Marketing Specialist, Jody Miller, has put together a program with Lands' End and Vista Print that allows everyone to shop AOS branded products or artwork provided from both partners.

The Lands End program offers the option to buy AOS branded shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, all by following this hyperlink: https://business.landsend.com/store/american-orchid-society/

You have to set up an account to use this program. I can't wait to see how many AOS shirts I see at the next Member's meeting in Chicago.

The Vista Print program offers more merchandise and even allows the affiliates to print shirts with their own logo, it just has to be uploaded in specific file formats (.png, .eps, .svg file formats). Already loaded and available are various AOS tablecloth, table runner, and flag options. For those societies who want their own table covers, rather than finding out which JC person has it and arranging to get it, this is for you. The hyperlink is: AOS.ourproshop.com

I always wondered where the table covers and flags that I would see at various shows around the country came from. I found out that many years ago, a generous donor gave funds to create the table covers and flags and sent them to each judging center. The JC was tasked with storing them and providing them to each show in their judging region. Even though my JC is very small, I don't remember ever seeing the table covers or flags flown at any of our societies shows and they have long since disappeared. If that is the case for your society, this is an opportunity to get your own table covers or flags.

One of the best places to recruit new members for your societies is at shows. What better way to bring attention to your society table than to show off your AOS membership with flashy table covers and flags? The more we both grow, the more we can support each other.

Les Orchidophiles de Montréal Society Suggestion

At our orchid society, Les Orchidophiles de Montréal, we were noticing a decline in participation to the monthly "orchid show and tell" table.

To try and boost participation, we implemented a contest called "Les pouces les plus verts" (The Greenest Thumbs). This is a point system whereby orchid exhibitors receiving ribbons at the monthly show and tell table accumulate points (1st=5 points; 2nd= 3 points; 3rd=1 point). Points accumulate from March to February the following year and are tracked in our monthly journal for everyone to see. At the end of February, the number of points per exhibitor is converted in tickets for a draw of 3 prizes in cash for the winners to buy more orchids during our orchid show, Orchidexpo, the following month.

We have been doing this for 3 years now, and the participation has increased significantly since!

Keep Your Society Info Current Online…

Please visit our webpage with your Society Member # and Login to Update Contacts, Meeting and Show Dates

If you have any issues accessing your Society Member page or need help accessing, please send an email to grahamramsey.aos@gmail.com

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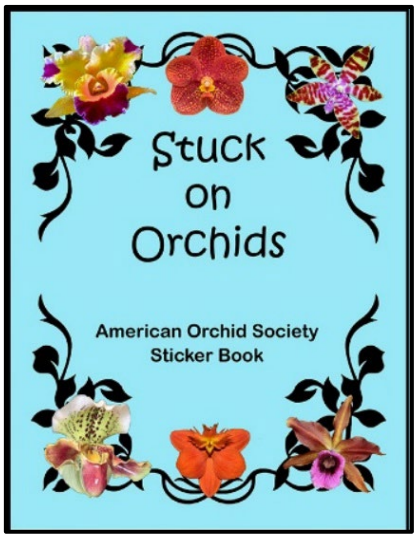
NEW AOS STICKER/ACTIVITY BOOK RELEASED

BY ERON BORNE, CHAIR – EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Most of you are familiar with the Education Committee's children's sticker book *Stuck on Orchids.* This book was first published in 2022 and has been very popular with children at orchid shows and schools. This book comes with a Teacher's Guide for any society that would like to host a more formalized children's education program. The sticker book is 16 black and white pages printed on coloring book paper. It has 51 full-color stickers on pages inserted in the back. We chose seven of the more common orchid genera to include in this book: Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, Cymbidium, Oncidium, Vanda, and Dendrobium.

I'd like to introduce our second sticker and activity book *Orchid Adventurers* which was created this year. The new book mimics the time of the orchid hunters of the late 1800s and follows orchid adventurers Max and Aria. It has new genera to explore, different stickers, and activity pages. Plans are to also create a Teacher's Guide for this book in the new future.

I'm very excited to announce that both books are now are in the process of being printed. It does take time as the stickers are printed at one business and then sent to the printer of the books to be inserted and put into plastic sleeves. Once per year, affiliated societies can request a box of these sticker books.

The books are free and are shipped with about 50 books in a medium priority shipping box. For this fall's shipments, we will be including copies of both books. The society just needs to pay $22.80 for shipping. If you are interested in this, contact Lydia at the AOS Office at theaos@aos.org. Lydia can help you make arrangements for payments. If your society would like to purchase additional copies of the sticker books, that can be arranged as well for a small charge per additional book. If you have any other questions about these books, please contact eronb737@aos.org.

Share Your Ideas & Stories

Your Great Ideas

Has your Society created ways to keep your members engaged and having them coming back for more? Do you have a fun fact you would like us to share? We would like to hear from you.

Your Blunders

Do you have a recurring problem? Share your mishaps as well! Your lessons can help others avoid similar mistakes. Please email us your stories to arod@aos.org. If you wish your story to remain anonymous, we will be more than happy to keep it so.

Affiliated Societies Committee Membership

The Affiliated Societies Committee is looking for team members. Help us continue to build relationships and resources for all the American Orchid Society Affiliates. Please send an email to arod@aos.org if you are interested in joining us virtually at our September 16th Meeting @ 8 P.M (Eastern Time).

Thank You for Reading!

Please remember to include the Affiliated Societies Committee (affiliated_societies@aos.org) to your newsletter distribution. We would like to know what you are doing. Help us help everyone by sending us your great ideas, recurring problems and your blunders; we all need that little inspiration in our orchid journey. If you have something to share, or there is something you would like to read about, please let us hear from you.

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